

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr East reported on a good afternoon at the opening of the new school classroom. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Worms, ex Chair of the Governors, for all her work in ensuring that the new classroom became a reality.

A request for assistance had been received from the Village Festival Committee towards the costs of this year's Festival and the Queen's 90th Birthday street party.
It was agreed to make a donation of £250. Cheque No. 973

150. Finance

1. Payments:

1. Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£116.34	Cheque No. 972
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The account was agreed for payment.

151. Items for consideration for the next Agenda.

Emergency Plan; Neighbourhood Plan; Queen's 90th birthday Celebrations. North Devon Record Office.

152. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16 March 2016

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

147. Emergency Plan – Update

Cllr East reported that Cllr Freeman was still working on the draft copy. The Message in a Bottle had been well received by customers at the shop.

148. Neighbourhood Plan – Update

Cllr Benbow reported on a meeting with North Devon Council. It was thought best to work with the neighbouring parishes of Loxhore and Stoke Rivers. Four members were being sought to join the Steering Group, which should represent all ages. A questionnaire would be prepared.

A request for funding of £1500-£2000 was received from the Steering Group to cover costs. This was agreed.

149. Reports

1. District Councillor’s Report

Cllr Prowse reported that the increase in NDC’s portion of the Council Tax was likely to be 1.99%. The council was looking at having to make cuts in grants to outside bodies. It had also been suggested that district Councillor community Grants be cut from £1000 to £750. An increase of 10p per hour in car parking was being considered.

He had been pleased to be present at the opening of the new school classroom, which would be a great benefit.

Cllr Prowse circulate and read a report concerning the Millennium Green.

A great deal of work had just been completed on the play area, which had partly been funded by the Millennium Green and grants. A £50 donation had been received as the result of the 2015 Festival. The Composting Group had provided an oak tree, together with the Millennium Oak. These would be planted as soon as metal tree guards had been made. As part of the consultation in 2015 parents had come up with ideas on improving the play area.

Cllr Prowse explained that, apart from the annual grant from the Parish Council, the Green received no other income. Increased costs meant that reserves were being used to supplement the grant for annual running costs.

Cllr Prowse proposed that the parish council allocate £5000 towards improvements to the Millennium Green. Seconded by Cllr Tribe. All in agreement.

2. County Councillor’s Report

Cllr Edgell reported that after a freeze of five years the County Council would be increasing Council Tax by the maximum amount of 1.99%. The council was also applying for permission to raise the Council Tax by a further 2% to help pay the additional costs of adult social care due to the increase in the minimum wage. The additional funding would bring in a further £6.6m towards the increase in costs of £7.3m.

Rural areas were still disadvantaged in the level of government funding. Lobbying had resulted in an additional £8.4m over two years.

3. Composting Group

Cllr Shapland reported that payments received had been £200 from the Flower Club, which had now disbanded, and £371.89 from North Devon Council for 6.48 tonnes material removed from site during December 2015 and January 2016.

Payments had been £59.97 for new padlocks following the recent break-in, £33 for diesel, £149.99 for an alarm for the container, £575 for a 15 year old Millennium Oak tree, £30.20 for additional keys, and £573.25 for the workers annual dinner.

The balance stood at £9602.84.

4. Woodland Group

Cllr Shapland reported that the very wet weather had meant that everything was at a standstill at the moment. The seats and bridge were waiting to be installed as soon as the ground conditions were suitable.

142. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting held 20 January 2016

Min. 125.6 Cllr Shapland reported that it was not possible to bann dogs from the Recreation Ground as it was public open space.

Min. 128. It was noted that questionnaires had been circulated to every house in the village, not just to users of the Sports Club.

Min. 131. Road subsidence was reported in the dip near Ditch End.

Min. 134.2 The Bill to enable communities to set their own speed limit had been withdrawn due to lack of support.

It was noted that the interactive sign opposite the shop was facing the wrong direction. It was agreed to ask Mr Kellaway to rectify.

143. Planning

1. Applications:

60483 Listed building consent for emergency repairs Chelfham Barton Chelfham Barnstaple

It was noted that the building was in a very poor state and needed urgent attention.

It was resolved to recommend that the application was approved.

60599 Retention of composting toilet land adj Four Cross Way Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend that the application was approved.

60567 Alterations to access to include repositioning of gate Summerland Bratton Fleming

It was resolved to recommend that the application was approved.

2. Decisions

1. Approval:

60428 Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (class c3) and for associated operational development at barn adjacent Barton Bungalow Bratton Fleming

2. Appeal Decision - Dismissed

58900 Outline application for new dwelling, land off Haxton Lane Bratton Fleming

144. Correspondence

1. Highways advised a road closure Collard Bridge Cross to Chelfham Cross 29 February to 3 March for fencing work. This would be a 24 hour closure. This would have a serious effect on the bus service and school transport. It was not understood why a full closure for 4 days was necessary. Cllr Edgell to make enquiries and request a restricted daytime closure

2. An appeal had been received from Barnstaple Town Council for financial help in financing the North Devon Record Office. It was agreed to circulate the letter and discuss at the next meeting.

145. Highways

It was reported that the road below the industrial units had sunk. Highways to be notified.

146. North Devon Local Plan

It was noted that under the latest proposals, there would be no areas where wind turbines would not be permitted. This included the AONB and the Exmoor fringe. The District Council had been very successful in the past in stopping turbines being placed along the ridge at Bratton Down, with two application being rejected at appeal by two different inspectors..

The council supported the points raised by parishioners in opposing the latest proposals.

It was agreed to request the reinstatement of the policy to protect the Exmoor fringe area and the AONB, and that there should be a 'no wind turbine' option.

It was agreed to object to the current proposal.



A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Bratton Fleming Village Hall on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 7:45pm.

Present: Cllrs B East, Ms N Henry, M Huxtable, Mrs P Kellaway, M Prowse, T Shapland and G Tribe.

In attendance: 9 parishioners, Cllr R Edgell (DCC), Parish Clerk

In the absence of the Chairman, the Chair was taken by Cllr East.

138. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F Benbow, P Freeman and A Kellaway.

139. Public Participation

Cllr East explained that the new seating arrangements was in response to comments from parishioners. A letter had been received regarding complaints relating to the publication of minutes. The Chairman and Clerk were already meeting to resolve this, so he did not propose to discuss the matter further.

Complaints were received regarding the latest public consultation on the North Devon Local Plan in which North Devon Council were proposing that wind farm development should be permitted in all areas with just some limit on the size of turbine.

There was strong feeling that the area would be spoilt by the turbines if allowed to be erected anywhere. The parish council was asked to help protect the local countryside.

It was noted that subsidies were being withdrawn, and that turbines were not as economic as originally thought.

Applications in Bratton Fleming had already been lost at appeal due to the detrimental impact they would have had on the landscape. There was feeling that the Exmoor edge needed protecting.

The parish council was urged to object to the proposal strongly.

The Festival Committee were in the process of applying for a road closure for the Queen's Birthday celebration and the Village Festival. In response to a request it was agreed to include the Festival under the council's insurance, as last year.

A request was received for council minutes and agenda to be available 16 days prior to meetings. Cllr East explained that at a training session he had attended it was explained that the government policy was for agendas and minutes to be displayed 5 clear days before meetings. Cllr Prowse confirmed that this was the case with NDC, where both minutes and agendas were much longer.

A parishioner stated that bodies receiving public money ought to have public meetings to receive the accounts and encourage new members, including the Parish Tree Warden. Cllr Shapland stated that recent appeals for volunteers resulted in few people coming forward, and that it was more helpers that were wanted more than new committee members.

140. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Prowse and Shapland declared a non pecuniary interest on the item concerning the Millennium Green, as a Trustee.

141. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held 20 January 2016

Min. 131 was amended to read Sentry Cross, not Ditch End.

The amended minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.